

CLAIMS

1. A system comprising:
- 5 at least one vendor communication device for at least receiving messages and presenting the messages to at least one vendor;
- a computer system including:
- a network interface for communicating messages via a network;
- a vendor database including at least a collection of vendor
- 10 records, each of the vendor records identifying a means of sending messages to at least one vendor communication device corresponding to each of the at least one vendor;
- a controller, communicatively coupled to the network interface and to the vendor database, for receiving a customer order request including
- 15 order information for an order of at least one of goods and services provided by at least one vendor having at least one vendor record in the vendor database, and, in response to receiving the customer order request, sending via the network interface at least one message to the at least one vendor communication device corresponding to at least one vendor according to the
- 20 at least one vendor record corresponding to the at least one vendor, the at least one message including the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one vendor communication
- 25 device comprises at least one of: a paging device, a two-way paging device, a facsimile device, a printing device, and a computing device.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one vendor record identifies a geographic area serviced by the at least one vendor, and wherein the controller sends the at least one message to the at least one vendor if the order information indicates an order of at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor in the geographic area.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller sends the at least one message for wireless transmission to the at least one vendor communication device.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system comprises a web site system and the network interface is communicatively coupled to the Internet.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system receives the customer order request via the network interface.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system receives a confirmation message from the at least one vendor communication device, the confirmation message corresponding to the at least one message including the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the confirmation message indicates that the at least one vendor communication device has received the at least one message including the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the confirmation message indicates that the at least one vendor has received the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein the confirmation message indicates that the at least one vendor has received the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor, and wherein the controller provides confirmation information to a user that originated the customer order request to indicate to the user that the at least one vendor has received the order information.

11. The system of claim 7, wherein the confirmation message indicates that the at least one vendor has received the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor and that the vendor is requesting at least one of

- acceptance of the order,
- a modification of the order information,
- acceptance of the order with a specified delay in delivery time, and
- non-acceptance of the order.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the vendor database comprises a database of restaurateurs, and the order is for food provided by at least one restaurateur.

13. A method for an on-line order processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving via a network interface a customer order request including order information for an order of at least one of goods and services provided by at least one vendor in a geographic area serviced by the at least one vendor, the at least one vendor being represented by at least one vendor record in a vendor database, the at least one vendor record identifying the geographic area;

determining from the order information and the vendor database a means of communicating with at least one vendor communication device of at least one vendor corresponding to the order; and

sending via a network interface at least one message to at least one vendor communication device according to the at least one vendor record corresponding to the at least one vendor, the at least one message including the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor in the geographic area.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the sending step comprises the step of wirelessly transmitting at least one message to the at least one vendor communication device.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the vendor database comprises a database of restaurateurs, and the order is for food provided by at least one restaurateur.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

receiving a confirmation message from the at least one vendor communication device, the confirmation message corresponding to the at least one message including the order information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one vendor in the geographic area.

17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:
receiving a confirmation message from the at least one vendor
communication device, the confirmation message indicating that the at least
one vendor has received the order information for at least one of goods and
5 services provided by the at least one vendor in the geographic area.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a confirmation message from the at least one vendor
communication device, the confirmation message indicating that the at least
10 one vendor has received the order information for at least one of goods and
services provided by the at least one vendor in the geographic area and that
the vendor is requesting at least one of

acceptance of the order,
a modification of the order information,
15 acceptance of the order with a specified delay in delivery time, and
non-acceptance of the order.

19. An on-line computer system comprising:
network interface communicatively coupled to the Internet;
order receiving means for receiving order requests from customer
members via the network interface, the order requests including order
5 information for orders of at least one of goods and services provided by at
least one vendor in a geographic area serviced by the at least one vendor;
a vendor database including at least a collection of vendor records,
each of the vendor records identifying a means of sending messages to at
least one vendor communication device corresponding to each of the at least
10 one vendor, and further each of the vendor records identifying a geographic
service area serviced by each of the at least one vendor;
determining means, communicatively coupled to the order receiving
means and the vendor database, for determining from the order information
and the vendor database a means of communicating with at least one vendor
15 communication device of at least one vendor corresponding to the order; and
sending means for sending via a network interface at least one
message to at least one vendor communication device according to the at
least one vendor record corresponding to the at least one vendor, the at least
one message including the order information for at least one of goods and
20 services provided by the at least one vendor in the geographic area.
20. The on-line computer system of claim 19, further comprising:
confirmation receiving means for receiving a confirmation message
from the at least one vendor communication device, the confirmation
25 message indicating that the at least one vendor has received the order
information for at least one of goods and services provided by the at least one
vendor in the geographic area.